

Now, having compared the greatly enlarged entrances of those from which we have taken Cuckoos' eggs with the entrances of those which did not contain the egg of a Cuckoo, and which we took as soon as the bird had laid its full number of eggs for a sitting, I cannot but feel convinced more than ever that the eggs of these parasites are laid in the nests, and not deposited in any other manner. The average width of the entrances of the nests of *Acanthiza lineata* which have not been visited by a Cuckoo is 1 inch, while those which have contained Cuckoos' eggs vary from 2 to 2½ inches. In addition to the nests of *Acanthiza pusilla*, we have known this Cuckoo (*C. cineraceus*) deposit its eggs in the nests of *A. reguloides* (?) and *Chthonicola minima*. How great is the difference between the Cuckoo's eggs and those of this last bird (*Chthonicola minima*), which are of a bright reddish chocolate!

The eggs of *Cuculus cineraceus* are from 10 to 10½ lines in length, by 7 to 7½ in breadth. The ground-colour is a delicate white, spotted and dotted with wood-brown, deep brownish lilac, and fair lilac dots, which appear beneath the surface.

Some specimens are faintly sprinkled all over, and the dots have a washed-out appearance; others are marked more strongly, and in these the markings formed are in a distinct zone at the larger end, which is sometimes broken by a batch of very deep-coloured dots.

I have seldom met with the eggs of this species in collections (although sometimes I have seen those of *Cuculus inornatus*), whereas the eggs of *Chalcites lucidus* are to be found in almost every collection of eggs made in New South Wales. It is curious that one variety of the egg of the *Chalcites lucidus* (var. A) should be so different from the eggs of the species in the nests of which it is placed, whereas both the other species here mentioned lay eggs very similar to those of their foster-parents.

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June 13, 1865.

Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., in the Chair.

Mr. P. L. Slater exhibited a photograph of a pair of Gayals (*Bos frontalis*, Lambert), intended for transmission to the Society's Menagerie by Mr. W. Dunn, of Akyab, Corr. Memb. The animals were stated to be about half-grown.

Mr. Slater also exhibited a drawing of the Paradise-bird lately discovered in the Island of Waigiu by Dr. H. A. Bernstein, and described by Professor Schlegel as *Paradisea calva*, and remarked that it appeared to be the same as the *Paradisea wilsoni*, Cassin\*.

\* Journ. Acad. Sc. Phil. ii. p. 57, pl. 15.

The Secretary called the attention of the Meeting to several interesting additions to the Society's Menagerie. Amongst these were—

1. A specimen of the Letter-winged Kite (*Elanus scriptus*, Gould), which had been procured from a native at King George's Sound, West Australia, and presented to the Society on the 29th of May last by Ernest de St. Jean, Esq.

2. A specimen of a species of *Hæmatornis* from the Andaman Islands, presented to the Society by Arthur Grote, Esq., of Alipore, Calcutta, Corr. Memb. This bird was forwarded by Mr. Grote as a specimen of *Hæmatornis elgini*, Blyth, but was considered by Mr. Gurney not to be different from *Hæmatornis bacha* (*H. bido*, Horsf.) of the Malayan region.

3. A *Paradoxurus* from the same islands, also presented by Mr. Grote as *Paradoxurus tytleri* of Blyth.

4. A third living *Apteryx*, presented to the Society on the 23rd of May last by Mr. Henry Slade, R.N., of H. M. S. 'Miranda.' This specimen had been purchased in Auckland by Dr. Slade, from a person who had obtained it in the south part of the North Island, about six months before. A second living example of this bird, forwarded in the same vessel by His Excellency Sir George Grey for the Society, had died on the passage.

5. Two specimens of the Japanese Badger (*Meles ankuma*, Temm. Faun. Japon. Mamm. pl. 6), believed to be the first examples of this scarce animal received alive in Europe.

6. A fine young female example of the Japanese Pig (*Sus leucomystax*, Temm. Faun. Japon. Mamm. pl. 20), presented by Messrs. Glover and Co., Nagasaki, Japan, and transmitted to the Society in the ship 'Comet,' Capt. Wright.

Mr. P. L. Sclater exhibited some specimens of *Heliomaster angelæ* (Gould's Mon. Troch. iv. pl. 263), and read the following extract from a letter received from Prof. Burmeister, For. Memb., relating to them:—

"I take the liberty of sending you four Humming-birds of this country, all belonging to *Trochilus angelæ*, Lesson, which is not uncommon in the vicinity of Buenos Ayres. I have also found the same species at Parana, but only in the young state; and as I could not procure the bird, I described it in my 'Reise' as a new species (*Campylopterus inornatus*). Afterwards, in Tucuman, I procured the bird in full dress; but I did not see the young at the same time, and therefore did not think it was of the same species. The species was long ago described by Azara, the male as the 'Cola de tixera' (no. 299), and the female as 'Blanco debajo' (no. 297); but as Azara did not know the male in its full summer dress, no one would understand that his 'Cola de tixera' was the *Trochilus angelæ* of Lesson. I have given some notes on the Humming-birds of Azara in the work accompanying my letter; but when I wrote them I did not know that the 'Cola de tixera' was the old male in the winter dress, and therefore described that dress as being that of immatu-

